

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to have their stations air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. In the absence of a counterbalancing pro-Kerry documentary like *Going Upriver* being aired, it is obvious that Sinclair Broadcasting is trying to manipulate voter attitudes in order to grow itself. Airing one documentary and not the other is an indication that Sinclair is willing to use unfair tactics in order to further its own agenda, at the expense of the American ideals of fairness and the two-party system.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, not their own. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.